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deaths were as follows: 1899, 17,783; 1898, 18,067; 1897, 16,687; 1896, 15,466; 1895, 14,510.

Taking last year's deaths, and estimating the population on the basis of the municipal census of 1895, the death rate was, says the board, 51.63 per thousand, an alarming rate, and more than double that of London, New York, or Paris. A new census would undoubtedly show an increased population and so the death rate per thousand would be diminished, but, in any case, it would be far in excess of the capitals mentioned.

The number of births, as usual, is below the number of deaths, and the city's population grows only from constant recruiting from the interior towns. The births in 1899 were 14,310, over 3,000 fewer than the deaths. There were 844 stillbirths and 606 cases of abortion.

The deaths occurring at the hospitals were: Juarez, 1,460; San Andres, 954; Military, 180; Maternidad, 94; Jesus, 92; Homoeopathic, 86; Beistegui, 76; San Hipolito (for the insane), 50; Divino Salvador, 44; Morelos, 24.

Taking the city by *cuarteles*, or wards, the death rate per 1,000 was: First ward, 47.06; second ward, 72.56; third ward, 54.41; fourth ward, 40.75; fifth ward, 53.82; sixth ward, 37.27; seventh ward, 33.83; eighth ward, 43.51.

The tremendous death rate in the second ward will be noted.

The suburban towns in past years have shown an undue death rate, due, in large measure, to the custom of sending desperate cases into the suburbs in hope of a possible amelioration of their condition; these deaths should properly be charged up to the city. Many of the suburbs require, as much as does the city itself, a complete sanitation and the construction of sewers. There are suburbs where paludal or intermittent fevers prevail and the nonenforcement of the vaccination law causes many deaths.

#### NETHERLANDS.

##### *Report from Rotterdam.*

ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, *March 19, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended March 17, 1900: Three vessels were inspected and received bills of health. Of these the Holland-America Line steamship *Spaarndam* carried both passengers and freight. She sailed from this port for New York, via Boulogne-sur-Mer, on the 15th instant, carrying 16 cabin and 290 steerage passengers. One hundred and thirty pieces of baggage were inspected and passed and 60 pieces were disinfected and passed. The health of this port remains good.

Respectfully,

A. R. THOMAS,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

#### PORTO RICO.

##### *Report from Ponce.*

PONCE, PORTO RICO, *March 19, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the weekly quarantine and abstract bills of health report for the week ended March 17, 1900. Two cases of smallpox have been reported by the board of health.